

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

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R 160735Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1259

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8382

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CH

SUBJECT: LIAO CHIH-KAO AND CHIANG WEI-CHING LISTED ON

PI TING-CHUN FUNERAL COMMITTEE

1. ABROADCAST OVER FUKIEN PROVINCIAL RADIO ON JULY 14 LISTS (WITHOUT TITLE) KIANGSI PROVINCIAL FIRST SECRETARY CHAING WEI-CHING AND FUKIEN FIRST SECRETARY LIAO CHIH-KAO AMONG THOSE APPEARING ON THE FUNERAL COMMITTEE FOR COOCHOW COMMANDER PI TING-CHUN. THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL MENTION OF CHIANG SINCE HE LASTE APPEARED PUBLICLY ON JANUARY 18, 1976 (HK5115). ALTHOUGH CHIANG APPARENTLY LOST MOST OR ALL OF HIS POWER WITH THE ONSET OF THE ANTI-TENG CAMPAIGN, HIS APPEARANCE ON THE LIST INDICATES THAT HE PROBABLY RETAINS AT LEAST HIS TITLE OF FIRST SECRETARY.

2. DESPITE SEVERE CRITICISM OF HIS BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY (HK A-100), LIAO CHIH-KUA WAS STILL IDENTIFIED AS PROVINCIAL

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CCP FIRST SECRETARY AT AN APRIL RALLY IN FUKIEN. ALTHOUGH

LIAO HAS MAINTAINED A LOW PROFILE AND HAS NOT APPEARED
SINCE MAY DAY, HIS INCLUSION ON THE LIST SEEMS TO INDICATE
THAT HE RETAINS HIS POSITION WITHIN THE PARTY.

3. LIAO AND CHIANG WERE THE ONLY CIVILIANS ON THE FUNERAL
COMMITTEE. LIAO WAS IDENTIFIED EARLY THIS YEAR AS AN MR
POLITICAL COMMISSAR. THE POSITIONING OF CHIANG'S NAME DIRECTLY
AFTER LIAO'S INTRODUCES THE POSSIBILITY THAT CHIANG IS ALSO
AN MR POLITICAL COMMISSAR, BUT HAS NOT BEEN
CONFIRMED.
CROSS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLITICAL LEADERS, STATE FUNERALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK08382
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760274-0745
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760751/aaaabssn.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIAO CHIH-KAO AND CHIANG WEI-CHING LISTED ON PI TING-CHUN FUNERAL COMMITTEE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH, (LIAO CHIH-KAO), (CHIANG WEI-CHING), (PI TING-CHUN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006